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To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 11/19/01 11:02am
Subject: Microsoft Penalty Phase

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Stephen Besedick, and I am a Technology Coordinator at an elementary school in Orlando, Florida. My job centers around finding and integrating technology solutions for the faculty and students at my school. It is not hard to see (especially with the movement in our school district to establish a PC standard), that the "blind" adoption of the Microsoft OS (Windows) as well as its corresponding applications solutions is "forcing" people to accept technology solutions that may not necessarily match how they want to work, or give them opportunities to see if other, more viable solutions exist. The rush to use Microsoft as a "standard" eliminates the option of "choice," . . . and choice is what drives a competitive market. If schools, businesses, and individuals do not have a choice in how they want to complete their work, they they all become slaves to the system that they endorse. Microsoft certainly has a right to operate and innovate to satisfy their customer base, but they do not have the right to bury (at this stage of the market) legitimate attempts to offer competitive products in the areas that Microsoft does business. It is a well known that Microsoft has simply swallowed competitive technologies, and then turned around and offered them under their name, in order to keep their cash box full. If this situation was accepted as the norm in every other business or consumer category, we would only be driving ONE brand of car, eating ONE brand of food, and buying all of our other goods and services from ONE branded store. I do not think that this is an American vision. Microsoft has gotten too big to think rationally about how its business practices affect society . . .they are driven simply by cash and control. If we aren't careful, our technology infrastructure will be influenced by just one company, and everyone will just have to like it! It is the Federal Government's duty to make sure that the technology section of our economy has a level playing field . . .a field where EVERYONE plays by the same rules, and that the winners and ultimate money makers are those which offer the best product at the best price.